

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Tilghman United Methodist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 33 ☐ not for publicationcity, town Tilghman ☐ vicinity of congressional district Fifthstate Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees, Tilghman Methodist Churchstreet & number PO Box 192 telephone no.:city, town Tilghman state and zip code MD 21571

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 94street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 345city, town Easton state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-837

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

Check one

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Tilghman United Methodist Church is located on the east side of Route 33 in the village of Tilghman on Tilghman Island, Talbot County, Maryland. The Church faces west, with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

In 1879 the first Tilghman United Methodist Church was built on the present lot consisting of a one room building with a large belfry. That building was razed to its foundations in 1913 and a second church was built incorporating some of the 1879 foundation. The exterior of the present church is clad in asbestos shingles, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The brick foundation is covered with cement and has inset casement windows.

The west (main) facade is a five bay gable end with a central pair of pointed arch, one-over-one sash, opaque stained glass windows flanked by two single stained glass windows on either side. Boxed cornice returns wrap around to this gable end. A two-story bell tower is attached to the northern end of the west facade and is set forward from the main structure. The entrance to the church is through double doors on the first floor of the bell tower. The tower is covered by a flat roof.

The northern elevation is lit by seven pointed arch, one-over-one sash opaque stained glass windows.

The eastern gable end has a square apse extension from the main structure as the central bay. A rectangular, clear stained glass window is set into the apse which is flanked on either side by an opaque stained glass window.

The southern elevation of the church is lit by three pointed arch, one-over-one opaque stained glass windows. The eastern bays are covered by a modern addition which was first built in 1962 and then enlarged in 1975. It consists of a cinderblock foundation, an asphalt shingle roof, and asbestos siding.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Until 1879, the people of Tilghman Island were using a church built in 1845 at the edge of Paw Paw woods on the Main Road about 1.2 miles south of the Knapps Narrows Bridge. As the population grew, however, it was decided that a church was needed closer to the upper part of the Island. Land for the United Methodist Church was given by William Mathias and Mary E. Covington on July 5, 1879. The 1879 church, built under Reverend E.L.Hoffecker, was a one room building with a large belfry, a steeple, a bell, and no vestibule. It was a little larger than the present building, but very similar.

Thirty-four years later, the 1879 church was torn down to its foundations and the present church was dedicated by Reverend Ivanhoe Willis on April 24, 1914. A cornerstone with both the dates of 1879 and 1913 can be seen at the northwest corner of the present church. The church continued to grow and in 1962 a 36' by 60' addition was added onto the south side which consisted of one large room, three classrooms, a kitchen, and two bathrooms. In 1975 a second addition was built by the men of the church. This 26' by 70' structure was added onto the rear of the first addition and provided four classrooms, one large classroom, a storage room, a choir room and a church office.

The Tilghman Island United Methodist Church has long been an important force on the Island. Although its influence is not as strong as it once was, it remains an essential part of many Island social activities. Located at the southern edge of the village of Tilghman, the church serves as a keystone of community life.

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PS-2746

Tilghman United Methodist Church description continued.

The interior of the main structure is completely sheathed in pressed tin which is trimmed in gold paint. Almost all of the stained glass windows are dedicated to local people, and one on the altar was provided by the WCTU.

T-837
Tilghman M.E. Church
Tilghman Island Quadrangle





